

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of June 23 - June 27, 2008**

1. THIS Sunday - Progressive Poetry Reading (City-wide): A progressive reading of the Takoma Park Bathroom Poetry Project will be held this Sunday, June 29 from 1 to 2 p.m. The readings begin at the Big Bad Woof (117 Carroll Street, NW) and continue to five of the 17 local businesses participating in the project. Please join us as we experience poetry in nontraditional spaces! Additional information and a complete listing of participating poets and the location of their poems can be found online at http://bathroompoet.net/Poems_Locations_Takoma_Park.htm (*Housing and Community Development*)

2. Reminder! Clean-Up this Saturday (Ward 3): Join the City and the Pinecrest and Circle Woods neighborhood associations on Saturday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we work together to spruce up the gateway to Takoma Park and Maryland. This clean-up day is an initiative of the Neighborhood Commercial Area Small Scale Improvements project. Receive a New Hampshire Avenue T-shirt, meet the Litter Critter, and earn community service hours. (*Housing and Community Development*)

3. Illegal Signs (City-wide): The City Code prohibits the posting of flyers, handbills, and other signage on structures such as utility poles and bus shelters. We have seen a plethora of signs being posted throughout the community in recent months despite this prohibition. In the past month, Code Enforcement staff have removed over 60 illegal signs and contacted, when feasible, the owner of the business responsible for the posting, advising them of the City's law and issuing notices of violation to the offender. These proactive measures will continue. Illegal signs include, but are not limited to business advertisements, yard sale announcements, lost pets, and political statements. To report an illegal posting, please contact the City's Code Enforcement staff at 301-891-7119. (*Housing and Community Development*)

4. Takoma/Langley Sector Plan Stakeholder Meetings (Ward 6 and 2): Two rounds of day meetings with health, housing, economic development, transportation, recreation, and public safety agencies and two rounds of evening meetings with representatives of neighborhood and tenant associations, business and property owner associations, social organizations, and other community leaders were held this week. The meetings focused on refining the three urban design options for the Takoma/Langley and Riggs Road transit areas that were shown to the community two weekends ago. The options will be further refined through additional stakeholder meetings over the next three weeks, leading to the presentation of a preferred concept on July 17. (*Housing and Community Development*)

5. New Hampshire Avenue - WMATA Priority Corridor Network (Ward 6, 2, 3): WMATA presented a priority corridor network to improve bus service similar to Georgia Avenue, Columbia Pike, and National Harbor at a Council of Government technical review committee meeting this week. University Boulevard is seventh on the list, New Hampshire Avenue - K6 - is currently eleventh on the list, and East-West Highway is fifteenth on the list. They are recommended for study in 2007, 2009, and 2010 respectively. (*Housing and Community Development*)

6. Summer Quest: Nearly 160 children are now enrolled in the Library's Summer Quest reading program. Many are well on their way to reaching their reading goal. (*Library*)

7. **The Book Program:** Children's Coordinator Karen MacPherson is doing a book oriented program every Friday morning at the New Hampshire Recreation Center for children enrolled in the Recreation Department's summer camp. She does two programs for the Community Center campers on Monday afternoons. *(Library)*

8. **Sign-Up Online!** On-line program registration is a popular new feature at the Library. Those who wish to sign up for programs or be added to a waiting list may do so at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html. Program participants are sent an e-mail reminder the day of the program and are advised of cancellations. *(Library)*

9. **Photo Art:** The first session of Photo Art Quest, which teaches children ages 9 -13 how to turn digital photographs into art, runs June 30 - July 3 from 9 a.m. to noon. The first session and its waiting list are filled. Those interested in the second session (July 14 - 17) of Photo Art Quest or in Comic Art Quest, which will teach children how to produce their own online stories during the week of August 4, can get more information by calling the Library or checking the online registration site listed above. The workshops' instructor and designer, CMA Medieros, has degrees in art history, cultural administration, and digital media and has administered both knowledge transfer and neighborhood culture projects. Most recently, she led and designed the Family E-learning Project for the Sheffield City Council in England. CMA works with our public computer users weekday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. *(Library)*

10. **Wonderful Ones!:** A program for babies 12 to 24 months and their grown-ups begins at the Library on July 2 and will be held each Wednesday in July. The program is now full but interested persons may contact the Library to be placed on a waiting list. *(Library)*

11. **Successful Interviewing:** The second session of Successful Interviewing with MontgomeryWorks will be held Thursday, July 3 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is required. *(Library)*

12. **The Banned Books Club:** The first session of the newly formed Banned Books Club, for grades 6 and up, begins July 7. The inspiration of rising 7th grader Alanna Natanson, the club will look at children's and young adult books that have been challenged in schools and libraries through the years. The first selection is "The Chocolate War" by Robert Cormier. The series is supported by the Friends of the Library, who purchased additional copies of the book for checkout. Preregistration is required. *(Library)*

13. Police Department Activities:

- On June 23, Chief Ricucci, representing the City, attended a press conference at the Citgo Gas Station on Carroll Avenue. The press conference was hosted by Senator Cardin and Representative Van Hollen and concerned the oil crisis.
- On June 17 and 24, the Blair High School English as a Second Language (ESL) summer program visited the City of Takoma Park to learn about government. SDC Cannatella spoke with the students about how Takoma Park is unique by having its own Police Department. A brief tour was given to the students; they visited the prisoner processing area and the prisoner holding cells. The students were also able to observe the dispatcher while she took calls and dispatched officers to a call for service. At the

conclusion of the visit, they had the pleasure of talking to Chief Ricucci about various topics. We look forward to meeting with more students next year.

- On June 25, the annual Police Department Awards Banquet was held. Councilmembers Barry, Robinson, and Snipper and City Manager Matthews were in attendance. *(Police)*

14. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 116 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, four vehicle impounds and one Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrest.

During the week of June 18-24, 2008, the following details were completed:

June 18, 2008

- 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one-hour detail and issued three State citations, one other citation, and four warnings.

June 20, 2008

- 7000 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued four State citations.
- 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued four State citations.

June 22, 2008

- Maple Avenue and Tulip Avenue (stop sign) - conducted a one-hour detail and issued three warnings.

June 24, 2008

- 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one-hour detail and issued two State citations, and three warnings.
- Lockney Avenue at New Hampshire Avenue (speeding) - conducted a one-hour detail and issued one State citation and two warnings. *(Police)*

15. Awards Ceremony: City TV staff sent video crew to the Police Department Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, June 25. *(City TV)*

16. Function at the Junction: Weather permitting, City TV will send crews to the Function at the Junction featuring Zacor Band and Green The World tonight and Chopteeth on Sunday afternoon. *(City TV)*

17. PEG Network Training: City TV staff attended the annual PEG Network training on Wednesday, June 25. This annual event is completely sponsored by the PEG Network and featured sessions on emerging technologies, editing, and field producing techniques. *(City TV)*

18. The Newsletter: The July newsletter will be delivered to the post office on Friday, June 27th and should be delivered next week. It is now available for online viewing at the following URL: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/2008/july08.pdf>. *(City TV)*

19. Tremendous Trips: Tremendous Trips had a very successful week during June 16
- 20. A full busload of children in grades 1-5 and staff left the parking lot every day to a

variety of destinations: National Aquarium, Port Discovery, roller skating, and two different water parks. This camp is designed to provide recreational opportunities for the week following the last day of school. Parents have the flexibility of enrolling their kids for one or all of the trips. *(Recreation)*

20. **Summer Camps:** Camp Takoma, Camp Recess (at the Takoma Park Recreation Center), and Extreme Horizons all got underway the week of June 23. Camp Takoma and Recess rode on the C+O Canal by donkey and the locks on the Potomac River. The Mad Science program gave a workshop on aviation and taught the kids how to make gliders. A trip to the Long Branch pool cooled off the group on Wednesday. *(Recreation)*

21. **Extreme Horizons:** The Extreme Horizons Camp for grades 6-8 went to the movies, the Utz Potato Factory in Baltimore, Hershey Park, and the Folk Life Festival on the National Mall. This camp has one available space for the week of June 30-July 3. Call 301-891-7290 for more information. *(Recreation)*

22. **Touring Seniors:** On Wednesday, June 25, Takoma Park seniors took the City's bus to the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. The morning was spent on a docent tour of the 3rd floor Luce Center, the first visible art storage and study center in Washington, with more than 3,300 artworks from the Museum's collection on display. The afternoon docent tour concentrated on the Aaron Douglas, African American Modernist, exhibition of paintings, murals, and book illustrations. *(Recreation)*

23. **Students in Municipal Government:** On June 17 and 24, the City hosted two groups of social studies students from Montgomery Blair High School who came to Takoma Park to learn about municipal government. The students are enrolled in a special summer program for ESL (English as a Second Language) and are preparing to take the Maryland High School Assessment Test in Social Studies. The students held a mock City Council meeting in the auditorium and were given a tour of the Police Department. *(City Clerk)*